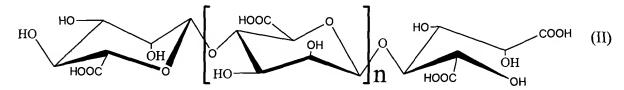
## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please enter the claim amendments as follows. The following Listing of Claims shall replace any prior claims listing. No new matter has been added.

## **Listing of Claims**

## 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) Alginate oligosaccharide derivatives or their pharmaceutically-acceptable salts, wherein the alginate oligosaccharide derivatives are composed of  $\beta$ -D-mannuronic acid linked by 1,4 glycosidic bonds, wherein the reduced terminal in position 1 is carboxyl radical, as shown by the following formula II:



wherein, n represents 0 or an integer of 1 to 8.

- 12. (Previously presented) The alginate oligosaccharide derivatives or their pharmaceutically-acceptable salts according to claim 11, wherein n is 2 to 8.
- 13. (Previously presented) The alginate oligosaccharide derivatives or their pharmaceutically-acceptable salts according to claim 12, wherein n is 4 to 8.
- 14. (Previously presented) A process for preparing alginate oligosaccharide derivatives or their pharmaceutically-acceptable salts, wherein the alginate oligosaccharide derivatives are composed of  $\beta$ -D-mannuronic acid linked by 1,4 glycosidic bonds, wherein the reduced terminal in position 1 is carboxyl radical, as shown by the following formula II:

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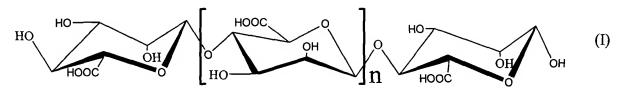
wherein, n represents 0 or an integer of 1 to 8, the process comprising the following steps in order:

acid hydrolysis step: an alginate aqueous solution is reacted for about 2 to 6 hrs in an autoclave at pH 2-6 and a temperature of about 100-120°C;

pH-adjusting step: after the acid hydrolysis reaction is stopped, the value of pH is adjusted to about 7; and

oxidative degradation step: an oxidant is added and reacted for 15 min to 2 hrs at a temperature of 100-120°C.

- 15. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein said alginate is sodium alginate and the acid hydrolysis reaction is carried out for 4 hrs under the condition of pH 4 and 110°C.
- 16. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein after adjusting the pH to about 7, alcohol is added to give a precipitate; the precipitate is filtered off with suction, dehydrated, dried and desalted.
- 17. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the oxidant is copper hydroxide and the oxidative degradation is performed for 30 min at a temperature of 100°C.
- 18. (Currently Amended) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of Alzheimer's disease or diabetes in a subject, comprising: administering, to a subject, an amount of mannuronic acid oligosaccharide represented by the following formula I effective for inhibiting formation of at least one selected from the group consisting of amyloid- $\beta$  protein fibrils and islet amyloid protein fibrils or effective for promoting fibrils disaggregation in the subject,



wherein, n represents 0 or an integer of 1 to 8.

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19. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:

an effective amount of the mannuronic acid oligosaccharide derivatives according to claim 11 for the prophylaxis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease or for the prophylaxis and treatment of diabetes; and

pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers.

20. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19, wherein the composition is any one selected from the group consisting of an amyloid- $\beta$  protein fibrils forming inhibitor, an islet amyloid protein fibrils forming inhibitor and a fibrils disaggregating promoter.

21-22. (Canceled)